

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN EB-07

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT:COAL AND COKE DATA

REF: MEXICO 650

1. THE PROJECT INDEPENDENCE BLUEPRINT TASK FORCE REPORT
ON COAL MAKES FORECASTS ON A BUSINESS AS USUAL (BAU) AND
ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT (ACC) BASIS AS FOLLOWS:

.....BAU (MILLION TONS).....ACC

1977.....755927

1980.....8951,376

1985.....1,1002,063

2. PROJECTIONS ON COKE PRODUCTION AND COAL PRICE FOR THE
NEXT TEN YEARS ARE VERY SPECULATIVE AT THIS POINT, BEST
ESTIMATES PLACE COKE PRODUCTION AT 63 MILLION SHORT TONS
IN 1980 AND 66 MILLION SHORT TONS IN 1985. COAL EXPERTS

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WITH WHOM DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED REPLY TO REFTEL ARE

EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY COAL PRICE PROJECTIONS
OVER THE NEXT DECADE. THEY SUGGEST THAT SUCH PROJECTIONS
ARE ALMOST MEANINGLESS IN VIEW OF PRICE ESCALATOR CLAUSES
BEING INCORPORATED IN MOST NEW COAL CONTRACTS.

3. DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING A COPY OF THE PROJECT INDEPEND-
ENCE TASK FORCE REPORT ON COAL WHICH IS MOST RECENT
AUTHORITATIVE REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT. INGERSOLL

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